Investigation against Software Companies

*237. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax Department has launched investigations against some software companies in Delhi and Mumbai for indulging in illegal accomodations entries and rigging of shares in the stock exchange during the past few months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Search action was conducted against a software company of Delhi and its directors in August, 1999. On the basis of the post-search investigations, which are in progress, there is reason to believe that the company has given accommodation entries to other companies and indulged in price rigging of shares.

Non-availability of OECF Assistance for Sardar Sarovar Project

*238. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of OECF assistance, the TG sets for River Bed Power House of the Sardar Sarovar Project could not be procured;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it leads to inability to open Letter of Credit in favour of the suppliers;

(c) if so, whether the Government of Gujarat and other beneficiary States requested the Centre for additional Central assistance in lieu of OECF funding for import of TG sets from Japan; and

(d) if so, by what time the additional Central assistance will be made available for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The OECF assistance has not been available for meeting the total cost of procurement of TG sets. These have now been procured through suppliers's credit of Yen 20.06 billion from

M/s. Sumitomo Corporation. Government of India has given counter guarantee for this supply. No central assistance is necessary for this purpose in view of the above facts.

(d) Does not arise.

Corporatisation of Major Ports

*239 SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to corporatise all the 11 major ports to world standard;

(b) if so, the names of such ports; and

(c) by what time this plan would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) A decision has been taken for phased corporatization of existing Major Ports starting with the new Major Port at Ennore followed by Jawaharlal Nehru and Haldia Ports.

(c) No time schedule has been prescribed for implementation of the plan.

Delay in repayment of excess Tax paid by assessees

*240 SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is enormous delay by income tax authorities to repay the excess tax paid by the assessees;

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the period since when these cases are pending alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to clear such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) All possible efforts are made for early and prompt disposal of refund claims. Government has consistently been impressing upon the Chief Commissioners of Income tax the need for taking effective steps for elimination of delay in this matter. However, the assessing officers who process the refund claims manually, need some time to process